1

EYE OPENING ARC

# Higurashi
## WHEN THEY CRY

STORY BY
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# Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
EYE OPENING ARC

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"I DROPPED MY BEADS IN THE DESERT," THE GIRL WEPT.
THE GIRL SEARCHED THE DESERT FOR A HUNDRED YEARS.
"MAYBE I DIDN'T DROP THEM IN THE DESERT,
BUT IN THE OCEAN," THE GIRL WEPT.
THE GIRL SEARCHED THE SEAFLOOR FOR A HUNDRED YEARS.
"MAYBE I DIDN'T DROP THEM IN THE OCEAN, BUT THE
MOUNTAINS," THE GIRL WEPT.
HOW MANY YEARS WILL IT BE BEFORE SHE QUESTIONS
WHETHER SHE REALLY DROPPED THEM AT ALL?
Frederica Bernkastel

# CHAPTER 1: HOMECOMING

# Higurashi

## WHEN THEY CRY

## EYE OPENING ARC

MORE THAN ANYTHING, I WAS AFRAID OF SUFFOCATING INSIDE THIS CAGE.

HUFF

HUFF

I'M GETTING OUT!

I'M GETTING OUT!

HUFF

I CAN'T GO ON LIVING IN THIS PLACE.

DA (SHIP)

GUI (GRAB)

HUFF

HA!

I'M GETTING OUT OF THE ACADEMY LIFE!

BA (JUMP)

BURORORO (VRROOM)

OWW...

DAN (WHAM)

!!

KIK!!! (SCREE)

BA (BAM)

SHION-SAN!

BA (BAM)

BATAN (SLAM)

BUON (ZOOM)

GOOD-BYE, MY DEAR ST. LUCIA ACADEMY!

I'M NEVER COMING BACK! SO THERE!

I'M TOLD THERE IS AN OLD CUSTOM PRACTICED BY THE HEAD FAMILY OF THE SONOZAKI CLAN— "IF TWIN SUCCESSORS ARE BORN, STRANGLE ONE BEFORE GIVING IT ITS FIRST CLEANING."

AH HA HA HA!

BURRURRURR 1222RUUUM

IT MEANS THAT SHE WILL BE THE ONE TO INHERIT THE "DEMON."

IT MEANS THAT I WILL BE FORCED TO RENOUNCE THE WORLD AND HIDE AWAY IN A "TEMPLE."

THE NAME GIVEN TO ME WAS SAMON.

*EACH HEAD OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY AS CAN BE SEEN WITH THE

MOTHER, HEAD OF FAMILY,

YOU'VE DONE YOUR DUTY WELL, SHION-SAN.

THIS MAN IS KASAI. HE'S AN OLD FRIEND AND CONFI-DANT OF MY DAD, WHO'S A YAKUZA BOSS.

NOW, KASAI HAS LEFT THE FRONT LINES AND IS KIND OF LIKE MY BUTLER.

AHHHH! IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE BREATHED THE AIR OF FREEDOM!

UGH, THAT SCHOOL. WE HAD TO GREET EVERYONE WITH "HOW DO YOU DO?" AND CALL ALL THE TEACHERS "SISTER."

AND WE HAD TO GO TO SUNDAY WORSHIP AND MEMORIZE SCRIPTURES.

IF I STAYED LOCKED UP IN A PLACE LIKE THAT, I'D EITHER END UP BRAINWASHED OR INSANE!

HEH-HEH. USE THE LEVER ON THE LEFT TO RECLINE THE SEAT.

TCH, KEEP LAUGHING! I'M GOING TO SLEEP!

EVEN AFTER BEING IN SUCH A REFINED GIRLS' SCHOOL!

AH-HA-HA. IT'S A RELIEF TO SEE YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED!

むぅ

MUMU (GRR)

OH, IT'S JUST THAT "HEAVE-HO" IS SUCH AN OUT-DATED WORD. YOU SOUNDED JUST LIKE MION-SAN.

WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT NOW?

RIGHT! HEAVE-HO!

PFFT!

GU-CTUG

HOW IS ONEE DOING?

I THINK SHE'S DOING WELL. BUT I ONLY EVER SEE HER IN PASSING AT FAMILY MEETINGS.

WELL, OF COURSE!

WE'RE IDENTICAL TWINS! WE'RE COPIES OF EACH OTHER.

OH, RIGHT. ONEE IS LIVING WITH OUR ONI-BABA* IN HINAMI-ZAWA.

MION-SAN?

HAS SHE CHANGED SINCE THEN?

YEAH.

HAVING TO SEE THAT ONI-BABA'S FACE EVERY DAY, YOU'RE BOUND TO CHANGE A LITTLE.

*"ONI-BABA" LITERALLY MEANS "DEMON OLD LADY."

OH...

SHE'S THE SAME MION-SAN THAT YOU KNOW, SHION-SAN.

NO, AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, SHE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL.

SHION-SAN...

...ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO OKINOMIYA?

THE DECISION TO SEND YOU TO ST. LUCIA ACADEMY WAS MADE BY THE HEAD OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY.

AND YOU SNUCK OUT OF THAT SCHOOL.

WHERE ELSE AM I GONNA GO BACK TO?

YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, DON'T YOU?

YOU MEAN, WHAT IF ONI-BABA FINDS OUT ABOUT IT? YEAH, THAT COULD BE BAD.

AS LONG AS YOU UNDER-STAND THAT.

IF YOU GO BACK TO OKI-NOMIYA, YOUR FAMILY WILL SEE YOU.

THE MAIN HOUSE IS BOUND TO LEARN WHAT HAPPENED SOONER OR LATER.

I DON'T CARE WHO INHERITS THE SONOZAKI FAMILY ANY-MORE!

I WON'T BE A THREAT TO THE FAMILY JUST 'COS I'M BACK IN OKINOMIYA!

BUT THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY DOESN'T FEEL THAT WAY.

DOSA (FLOP)

I GET IT! YOU WANT TO GET ME AS FAR AWAY FROM THE MAIN FAMILY AS POSSIBLE, RIGHT?

NI (SMIRK)

WHEN IT HAPPENS, YOU'D BETTER BE PREPARED TO BE WRAPPED IN A REED MAT AND THROWN INTO ONI-GAFUCHI SWAMP.

OR YOU MIGHT BE SENT TO THE FAMILY ESTATE'S TORTURE CHAMBER.

KUSU (GIGGLE)

MAYBE YOU SHOULD GIVE YOUR LITTLE FINGER LOTS OF KISSES WHILE YOU HAVE THE CHANCE?

OHHH, RIGHT. BECAUSE WHEN ONI-BABA FINDS ME, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO AVOID TAKING SOME OF THE BLAME.

NOBIIII (STRRRETCH)

WELL, IT'LL ALL WORK OUT! AH-HA-HA!

HA-HA-HA. I'LL TELL YOU SOME OTHER TIME.

WAS IT LIKE THIS WHEN MOM WAS STRIPPED OF HER RIGHT TO SUCCEED THE FAMILY HEAD TOO?

AH-HA-HA! WELL, SHE IS MY MOTHER.

YOU'RE SO INCREDIBLY LIKE AKANE-SAN.

ESPECIALLY THE WAY YOU LEAVE EVERY-THING TO CHANCE.

AND THEN?

WELL, FIRST I'LL HIDE OUT AT THAT APARTMENT BUILDING DAD TOOK CONTROL OF.

IF SOMEONE DOES SEE ME, THEN I CAN JUST SAY I'M MION.

SO REALLY, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

THE SONOZAKI CLAN HAS EYES EVERY-WHERE.

WHEN THINGS HAVE CALMED DOWN, I'LL GRADUALLY TELL PEOPLE THE TRUTH, STARTING WITH MY CLOSEST RELATIVES.

THERE SHOULD BE A FEW PEOPLE WHO WILL TAKE MY SIDE.

THEY MIGHT LAUGH AT ME FOR BEING HOMESICK...

EVERYONE WAS AGAINST IT WHEN THEY SENT ME TO THE SCHOOL, AFTER ALL.

ONCE YOU'VE WON ENOUGH ALLIES, YOU'LL ULTIMATELY GET THE SONOZAKI FAMILY TO OVERLOOK YOUR CRIME.

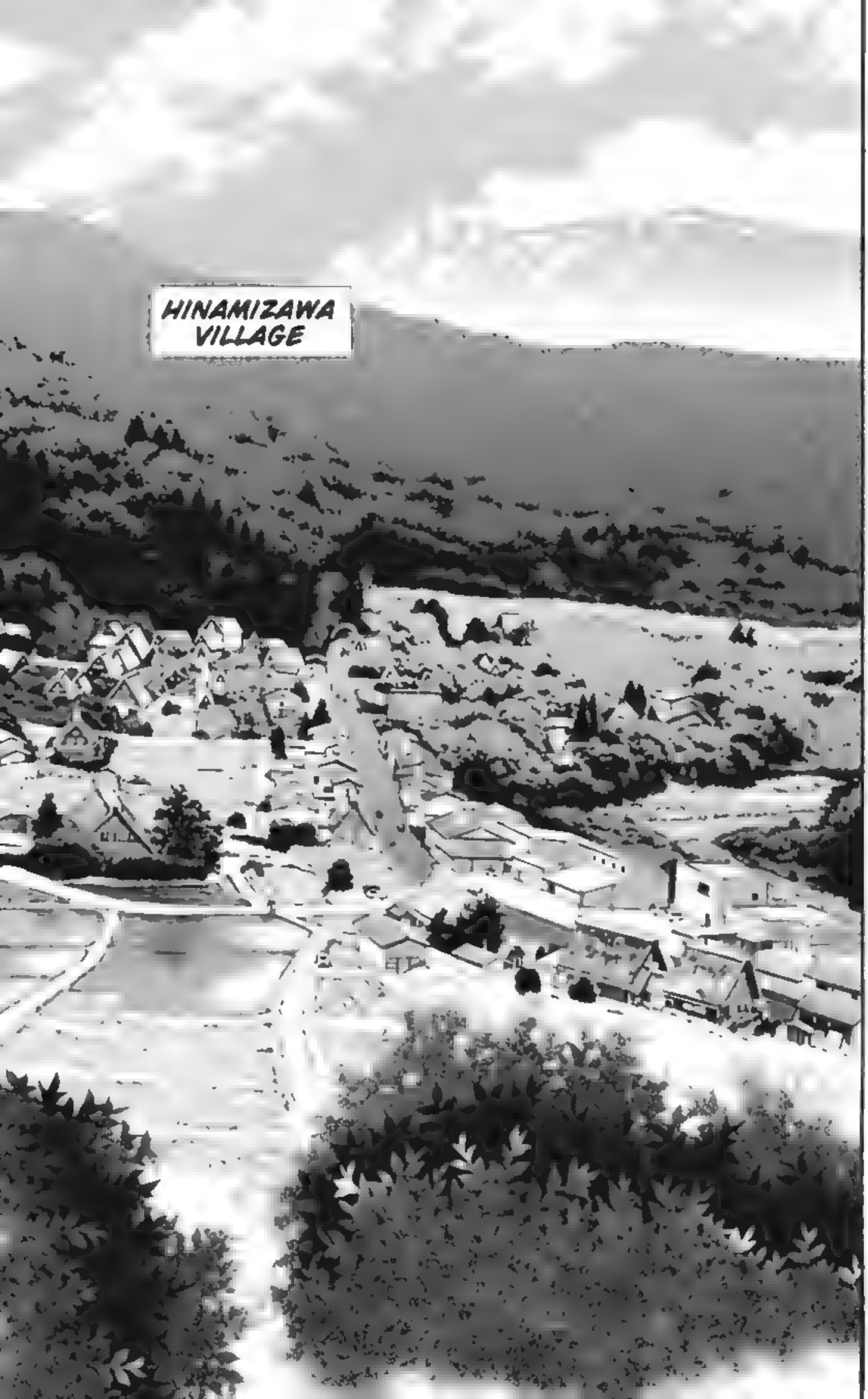
I SEE.

...BUT OKINOMIYA IS THE ONLY PLACE I CAN THINK TO GO...

...BECAUSE THAT TOWN IS MY HOME.

OF COURSE THEY WILL!

BUT WILL THINGS WORK OUT THAT SMOOTHLY?


HINAMIZAWA
VILLAGE

MION-SAN, YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL.

IT'S KASAI-SAN.

EH? KASAI-SAN?

HELLO, THIS IS MION.

Heh-heh-heh... Do you know who this is?

THEY DIDN'T LET US MAKE OUTSIDE CALLS FROM THE ACADEMY.

SO IF I'M CALLING YOU NOW, THAT MEANS...?

...TH-THAT VOICE! BUT IT CAN'T BE!

SHION'S SUPPOSED TO BE LOCKED UP AT ST. LUCIA ACADEMY!

YOU BUSTED OUT OF SCHOOL!?

HEH!

SHION ...!

うぅぅ

URURU (TEARS)

AWWW! I MISSED YOU, ONEE!

AH-HA-HA! HA-HA-HA-HA!

PFFT!

ONEE... HAS THE SCHOOL NOTIFIED THE FAMILY ABOUT MY ESCAPE?

NOPE. NOTHING.

ALL PHONE CALLS AND VIS TORS TO THE MAIN ESTATE GO THROUGH ME, SO I CAN SAY FOR SURE THEY HAVEN'T.

THEIR SECURITY MIGHT HAVE BEEN A LITTLE TOO LAX FOR KEEPING SOMEONE LIKE ME LOCKED UP! AH-HA!

**Wow, to think you really escaped... Man, you're good!**

I'LL BE HIDING OUT IN OKINO-MIYA FOR A WHILE.

IF ANYTHING HAPPENS THAT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME, PLEASE CONTACT KASAI, OKAY?

**Ehh!? I don't wanna be! Trade with me, Shion!**

I DON'T WANT TO EITHER!

WOW, I'M IMPRESSED. THAT'S THE NEXT HEAD OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY FOR YOU.

HMM? WHAT?

**And I have one more favor to ask you, Onee.**

...I THINK THERE COULD BE A LOT OF TROUBLE.

RIGHT... IF BATCHA FINDS OUT YOU RAN AWAY FROM SCHOOL...

I WANT TO GET A PART-TIME JOB SO I CAN SUPPORT MYSELF.

YOSHIROU-OJISAN WAS ON MY SIDE. I'M GOING TO PUT OUT FEELERS AND SEE IF I CAN WORK AT ONE OF HIS BUSINESSES.

WHEN I KNOW WHAT HOURS I'LL BE WORKING, I'LL LET YOU KNOW. SO...

YOU JUST NEED ME TO DISAPPEAR WHILE YOU'RE WORKING, RIGHT?

NIN CHAPHO

RIGHT! THAT WAY, IF IT LOOKS LIKE I MIGHT BE CAUGHT ON THE JOB...

...THEN I CAN JUST SAY THAT I'M YOU.

Angel Mort

You're quite a crafty one, you know. Heh-heh-heh!

AND OF COURSE, THAT'S A COMPLI-MENT, RIGHT? AH-HA!

AH-HA! I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU, YOSHIROU-OJISAN!

PAA (BEAM)

HEH HEH.

IN THAT CASE, SURE, YOU CAN HAVE A JOB!

LEAVE IT TO YOUR UNCLE!

I'M NOT VERY EXPERIENCED, BUT I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!

AND I YOU!

HA HA

PEKO (BOW)

WA

HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH

ONEE-SAMA

BIRARAAAN (CREEEAM)

...WHAT WAS IT LIKE AT THE RICH GIRL BOARDING SCHOOL I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT?

BY THE WAY, SHION-CHAN...

キラーン

SFX: KIRAAN (GLINT)

HOW ARE THINGS HERE? ANYTHING NEW IN HINAMIZAWA OR OKINOMIYA?

WOW, SO IT'S LIKE THE WAR ENDED AND EVERYONE GOT SOFT?

IT'S BEEN PRETTY LAID-BACK SINCE THE WAR OVER THE DAM ENDED.

NOTHING REALLY NEW.

WE DID ALL KINDS OF THINGS BACK THEN. THE POLICE TOOK GOOD CARE OF US!

AH-HA!

HA-HA!

YOU GIRLS HAD FUN DURING THE DAM WAR, DIDN'T YOU? LIKE IT WAS A GAME.

HMM, IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, THEY HAVEN'T CAUGHT THE RING-LEADER.

DID THEY EVER CATCH THE KILLERS?

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THERE WAS THAT DIS-MEMBERED BODY, WASN'T THERE?

YEAH! OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE! IT HAPPENED THE NEXT YEAR TOO.

EVERYBODY MADE A LOT OF NOISE ABOUT IT BEING OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE, RIGHT?

BUT THE MURDER HAPPENED ON THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFTING— THE NIGHT HINAMIZAWA CELEBRATES THEIR GUARD-IAN DEITY OYASHIRO-SAMA!

TWO YEARS IN A ROW AND IT REALLY HITS YOU, YOU KNOW? I STILL BELIEVE IN OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE.

MM-HM.

AND IT WAS ALSO ON THE DAY OF THE COTTON DRIFTING!

RIGHT, RIGHT! THAT WAS SCARY TOO! A MAN WHO SUPPORTED THE DAM DIED IN AN ACCIDENT!

EH?

SHION-CHAN, IT WASN'T JUST TWO YEARS.

IT HAPPENED THE YEAR AFTER AS WELL... LAST YEAR.

OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE.

THE CURSE CONTINUED EVEN WHILE I WAS GONE...

ON THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFTING IN 1979, THE DIRECTOR OF THE DAM CONSTRUCTION PROJECT WAS KILLED AND CUT TO PIECES.

THE NEXT YEAR, ALSO ON THE DAY OF THE COTTON DRIFTING ...

...A MARRIED COUPLE WHO SUPPORTED THE DAM FELL TO THEIR DEATHS WHILE ON VACATION.

...THE PRIEST AT FURUDE SHRINE SUDDENLY DIED OF A MYSTERIOUS ILLNESS.

DURING THE NEXT YEAR'S COTTON DRIFTING ...

AND THAT SAME NIGHT, HIS WIFE THREW HERSELF INTO THE BOTTOMLESS SWAMP.

THE PRIEST WASN'T FEELING WELL BECAUSE OF ALL THE STRESS OF GETTING READY FOR THE COTTON DRIFTING.

I THINK IT WAS ACUTE HEART FAILURE OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

I THINK THE "STRANGE ILLNESS" THING WAS AN EXAG-GERATION.

BUT IT'S WEIRD THAT IT HAPPENED ON THE DAY OF THE COTTON DRIFTING, ISN'T IT? AND FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW.

BUT IT'S TRUE THAT HIS DEATH WAS SUDDEN.

AND EVERYONE WHO'S DIED MYSTERIOUSLY IS SOMEONE OYASHIRO-SAMA WOULD BE LIKELY TO CURSE.

THERE'S DEFINITELY SOME-THING TO THIS.

THEY SAID HE WASN'T FIT TO BE A PRIEST AT OYASHIRO-SAMA'S SHRINE.

HE WAS PASSIVE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE DAM, AND HE DIDN'T RAISE ANY OBJECTIONS TO THE DAM SUPPORTERS' CLAIMS.

SIGN: DEFENSE ALLIANCE

I REMEMBER THE ANTI-DAM ACTIVISTS HATED THE PRIEST, DIDN'T THEY?

YEAH. THEY ATTACKED HIM FOR BEING A FENCE-SITTER.

...MAYBE THE PRIEST WAS PRETTY MATURE ABOUT THE WHOLE THING...

HMM. THINKING BACK ON IT NOW...

HMM, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.

...BUT HE STAYED COOL AND REMAINED NEUTRAL.

I MEAN, EVERYONE AROUND HIM WAS WORKED UP INTO A FRENZY...

...HMM...

OUR OPINIONS HAD NEVER BEEN SO AT ODDS ON ANYTHING BEFORE.

THIS WAS A FIRST.

FURUDE-OJISAN WASN'T JUST THE HEAD PRIEST AT THE SHRINE. HE WAS TECHNICALLY THE HEAD OF THE FURUDE FAMILY, ONE OF THE THREE MAIN FAMILIES.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO DISTURB THE PEACE AT A TIME WHEN ALL OF HINAMIZAWA NEEDED TO JOIN TOGETHER IN UNITY.

IF HE WAS REALLY MATURE, SHOULDN'T HE HAVE GONE ALONG WITH WHAT EVERYONE WANTED?

EH!?

I-I DIDN'T SAY THAT!

ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU SHOULDN'T TRY TO BE AN INDIVIDUAL WHEN SURROUNDED BY TOTAL TARIAN-ISM?

SO WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THE PRIEST SHOULD HAVE HIDDEN HIS OPINION OUT OF CONSIDERATION FOR THE WHOLE VILLAGE?

...SO MAYBE HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN A LITTLE MORE CAREFUL ABOUT HIS BEHAVIOR...

IT'S JUST HE'S ONE OF THE HEADS OF THE THREE FAMILIES...

AND EVEN AT THAT TIME

MUCH HAD ADVANCED THIS MUCH

IN BECOMING "THE NEXT HEAD OF THE FAMILY"

HMM. WHEN DID YOU GET TO BE SO GROWN-UP, ONEE?

I GUESS I REALLY AM STARTING TO THINK LIKE BATCHA.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT? YOU ARE GOING TO BE THE NEXT HEAD OF THE FAMILY, AFTER ALL.

IT JUST SHOWS HOW FAR YOU'VE COME IN STUDYING TO BE A GOOD EMPEROR!

SH-SHION!

I DON'T WANT TO! IT'S YOUR JOB TO BABYSIT ONI-BABA, MION!

I'M NOT STUDYING THAT! I'M JUST TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO TO PRETEND TO BE LIKE BATCHA!

YOU COULD DO IT TOO, NO PROBLEM!

ONEE—

NO. MION.

I WAS NEVER HAPPY ABOUT BEING SEPARATED.

AND NOT WHEN WE, PHYSICALLY, WERE PULLED APART...

NOT WHEN OUR HOMES WERE PULLED APART.

NOT WHEN OUR NAMES WERE PULLED APART.

MAYBE YOU THINK I HATE YOU FOR ALL OF THAT.

YOU WORK HARD, MION.

AND I'LL WORK HARD AS SHION.

IT'S TRUE THAT I DON'T AGREE WITH THIS. THAT I DON'T THINK IT'S FAIR.

BUT YOU WOULD BE WRONG.

BUT THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO FEEL BAD ABOUT.

OH, KASAI. PERFECT TIMING. WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT BEFORE YOU LEAVE?

MAY I COME IN, SHION-SAN?

TODAY? AH-HA-HA. TOOK THEM LONG ENOUGH. IT LOOKS LIKE THEY REALLY DIDN'T WANT THIS TO GET OUT.

THE SCHOOL CALLED YOUR HOUSE TODAY.

SHE SAYS SHE'LL LOOK FOR A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO YOUR FATHER ABOUT IT.

AKANE-SAN TOOK THE CALL.

IF ONI-BABA FINDS OUT, THEN IT'S THE TORTURE CHAMBER AS SOON AS THEY FIND ME. OOH, SCARY.

I HOPE WE CAN STILL LAUGH ABOUT IT WHEN IT'S OVER.

DAD IS CLOSE TO ONI-BABA.

HE'LL TELL HER RIGHT AWAY.

There's a family meeting coming up. They want to ask everyone there if they're hiding you.

But it doesn't look like they're going to have the young'uns search the town for you or anything.

Batcha's furious. She wants them to march you straight to her when they find you.

WELL, ONEE? WHAT'S IT LOOKING LIKE WITH ONI-BABA?

SFX: PATSUN (CLIP)

I GUESS MOM REALLY STOOD UP FOR ME.

OOH, SCARY! AND? WHAT ARE DAD AND EVERYONE ACTUALLY DOING?

.....

Kasai and Yoshirou-ojisan and Mom...

They all helped me. I can't let them take the fall.

OKAY, TELL ME IF ANY-THING ELSE HAP-PENS.

I'M PLANNING TO LEAVE TOWN IF THINGS GET REALLY, REALLY BAD.

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, ONEE.

YOU'RE WONDERING WHY I HAVE TO BE THE ONLY ONE IN HIDING...

...WHEN WE'RE SISTERS SHARING THE SAME BLOOD... RIGHT?

IT'S NOT FAIR FOR YOU TO BE THE ONLY ONE WITH SO MANY RESTRICTIONS.

THANK YOU, ONEE.

I'M JUST HAPPY KNOWING YOU FEEL THAT WAY.

SIGN: SONOZAKI BREAD

I'LL EITHER BE SENT BACK TO SCHOOL...

...OR I'LL ESCAPE TO SOME FAR-AWAY TOWN.

IF I MAKE THE HEAD OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY SERIOUSLY ANGRY, I WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY IN THIS TOWN.

EITHER WAY...

...BUT TO LIVE ALONE, WITHOUT ANYONE'S HELP.

...I HAVE NO CHOICE...

GASHAN (CRASH)

TCH!

GA (KICK)

GOOO (WHOOSH)

WHY, YOU LIT-TLE !!

MUKI!! (GRRRR)

UGH! DON'T PARK YOUR BIKES HERE!!

DON (PUNCH)

Y' BETTA B'LIEVE IT!!!

URRAAH!!

ZUGOOO (RRRUMBLE)

GRRAAAH!

YER GONNA GIT IT! RAAAH !!

WOW, THIS IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO TRANSLATE...

Intense ...

Y'OUGHTA BE'OUNDED!

CITRUS DEPRES-SA!

TOMA-BECH!!!

SIGH, I HAVE NO CHOICE.

YOU BITCH !!

GRRAAAHH!

GAN (CLANG)

GAN

GA (STOMP)

GA

JUST A SECOND HERE. WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME?

SYAA!

AAHH! YOU GOT ME? LISTEN-NAMMEE!

GAN

GUI (GRAB)

COME ON!! GRRAAH !!

W-WAIT!

AHH !?

OH NO...

BYO (GAPE)

URURUN (TEARY)

YOU DON'T HAVE TO YELL AT ME LIKE THAT!

I SAID I WAS SORRY, DIDN'T I!?

IDIOTS.

...IF YOU'RE GONNA CRY ABOUT IT NOW... Y'KNOW ...?

WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT BIG TALK FROM BEFORE, DAMMIT!?

PLEASE FORGIVE ME! HIC! HIC! SOB...

WHA—!? HEY!

W-WOULD YOU GUYS CUT THAT OUT!?

SHE'S CRYING! GIVE HER A BREAK...!

GU (GRIT)

WHAT'S THAT!? YOU LITTLE ...!

GUH (YANK)

TRY 'NYTHIN' FUNNY, AND Y'WON' GEDDOFF EASY!!

ZUKA

ZUKA (MARCH)

SON OF A BITCH !!

C'MON, SPIT IT OUT!! AN-SWER ME!!

WE WON'T KNOW ANY-THING IF YOU DON'T SAY IT!

THIS KID'S... NNGH.

GU GU GU (CLENCH)

THE HELL ...?

KRRAH!

BAKI (CRACK)

GA

GO (WHAM)

SWAR!

SWAR!

GA (WHACK)

...AH.

ARE YOU OKAY?

I'M SURPRISED AT YOU. YOU'RE THE TYPE TO PICK FIGHTS YOU CAN'T WIN, AREN'T YOU?

...OWW.

WELL, YOU BEAT THEM IN TERMS OF GUTS, SO I'LL CALL IT A DRAW.

I WASN'T SURE I WANTED TO AT FIRST. AH-HA-HA...

THAT WAS AN ACT ...!

BA (TURN)

I-I WASN'T CRYING!

H-HEY! YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME!!

AH-HA-HA-HA-HA. SURE, IT WAS AN ACT. AH-HA-HA.

KII (GRR)

DO YOU THINK I WOULD REALLY CRY!?

HRRM... YOU ALWAYS HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, DON'T YOU?

YOU COULD AT LEAST THANK ME. YOU WERE CRYING, WEREN'T YOU?

ぽん PAN (PAT)

ぽん PAN

NO. ***MION*** SONOZAKI ANSWERS TO NO ONE. I'D NEVER THINK...

...SHE WOULD CRY JUST BECAUSE SOME PUNKS WERE HARASSING HER.

NADE NADE NADE (PET)

なでなでなで

POFU (POFF)

NN?

OH...HE THINKS I'M MION.

BY ANY CHANCE ...?

カアアア

KAAAA (BLUUUUSH)

HA (GASP)

HEY! ARE YOU MOCKING ME?

GLAD...? ABOUT WHAT?

YEAH, I'M GLAD.

THAT YOU'RE OKAY.

なでなで

I WASN'T CRYING!

SO NO MORE CRYING, OKAY?

I WASN'T CRYING.

I WAS JUST FEELING A LITTLE VULNERABLE, THAT'S ALL...

I DON'T THINK
THERE WAS ANYONE
WHO WOULD COME
HELP ME

NOW

THE TIME OF YEAR WHEN THE HIGURASHI BEGIN TO CRY.

KAGAT

A TRAGEDY WAS ABOUT TO UNFOLD.

I HAD NO IDEA HOW IT WOULD END.

# Higurashi

WHEN THEY CRY

EYE OPENING ARC

HE'S USUALLY SO SPACEY, BUT I GUESS HE CAN DO THINGS WHEN HE PUTS HIS MIND TO IT.

WOW, SO HE TRIED TO HELP YOU, SHION?

OH, THAT'S SATOSHI. SATOSHI HOJO.

IF HE HAD NO RESERVA-TIONS ABOUT PATTING PEOPLE ON THE HEAD, THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

# CHAPTER 2

HMMM. SATOSHI HOJO-KUN, IS IT...?

CHAPTER 2: REUNION

HOW LONG WILL I GO ON LIVING LIKE THIS?

SIGH... I'M A TOTAL SHUT-IN.

I CAN'T ASK ONEE TO DO ANY MORE. I'M PUSHING IT AS IT IS.

AWW, I DON'T GET TO WALK AROUND OUTSIDE AGAIN FOR THREE DAYS.

IS THIS THE LIFE I WANTED ...?

I THOUGHT THAT IF I COULD CROSS THAT WALL, I WOULD BE FREE.

BUT IN REALITY...

I GOT THESE CLOTHES FOR MY DISGUISE THE LAST TIME I WENT OUT.

NOW I LOOK LIKE MION FROM EVERY ANGLE!

バン
BAN (BAM)

ALL RIGHT, PERFECT!

キィ..
KII (CREAK)

NN?

I HAVE TO GET A FEW DAYS' WORTH OF GROCERIES AND SHOW MY FACE AT WORK.

NOW! TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD!

SATOSHI-KUN?

Actually, Satoshi...

...is the son of the Hojos. The ones who supported the dam project...

...and died in the accident that everyone says was Oyashiro-sama's Curse.

キィ
KII (CREAK)

Right now, his uncle on his father's side and his aunt have taken in him and his little sister...

...but I don't think their family situation is going very well.

The uncle cheats on his wife all the time, and whenever she sees him, all they do is fight. I hear he's living with his mistress in Okino-miya right now.

The aunt doesn't seem too happy to have two kids pushed on her with all that going on either.

ガ!

A lot of the villagers were hostile toward the Hojo family during the dam war. Their aunt and uncle probably got hit with some of it too.

And they're the kids of the people who were in favor of the dam, you know?

It looks like she's taking out her anger about all that on the kids.

Satoshi's doing okay because he's grown-up, but the relation-ship between his aunt and his sister Satoko couldn't be any worse.

Lately, all the bullying has him really worn out.

GYU (CLENCH)

GII

GII

GII

HA (GASP)

ALL RIGHT!

I'M MION. I'M MION.

BA (TURN)

MION...

WHOA, YOU LOOK DOWN IN THE DUMPS.

WHAT? YOU THINK THIS OLD MAN CAN'T HELP YOU WITH IT?

N-NOTHING...

WHAT'S WRONG? SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?

NO...IT'S SOMETHING I CAN'T GET YOUR HELP WITH, MION.

SATOSHI-KUN IS ON THE BASE-BALL TEAM.

OH, RIGHT!

AND I'M THE WORST HITTER HERE...

PIIN (DIING)

IT'S NOT THAT, MION! I HAVE NO TALENT.

PSH!

OH? SO YOU DON'T WANT HELP FROM A GIRL LIKE ME, IS THAT IT?

"IS THAT ALL"...? BLOWING OFF MY PROBLEMS LIKE NOTHING...

BAN (BAM) BAN

OH, IS THAT ALL !?

...AND WAIT FOR YOUR NEXT CHANCE, RIGHT?

IN THAT CASE, YOU CAN JUST PRACTICE ALL THE HARDER...

I SHOULD LEARN FROM YOUR EXAMPLE.

BUT YOU DO WHATEVER YOU CAN TO BE NUMBER ONE, MION.

IT WON'T MEAN ANYTHING IF I CHEAT.

KEH! KEH! KEH!

WELL, IF YOU WANNA WIN BAD ENOUGH TO FIX THE OTHER PITCHER, THEN THIS OLD MAN COULD HELP YOU OUT!

THANKS TO YOUR ENCOURAGE-MENT, MION.

WAH!

NADE NADE (PET) なでなで

I'M FEELING A LITTLE BETTER NOW.

OOF.

TON (THMP)

HEY...

EEP!

POFU (POFF)

AH!

ER.

WELL, I GOTTA GO. MY AUNT ASKED ME TO GET SOME GROCERIES.

どぅどぅ

KAAAA (BLUUUSH)

SFX: GURU (SPIN) GURU

THANK YOU!

NIKKOO (SMILE)

にっこお

DOKIN (BADUM)

!

I-I'M GOING SHOP-PING TOO!!

HA (GASP)

はっ

DOESN'T YOUR HOUSE HAVE SERVANTS, MION?

OOPS!

I THOUGHT MAYBE I'D PRETEND TO DO HOUSE-WORK ONCE IN A WHILE.

AH-HA!

HUH. THAT'S PRETTY UNUSUAL FOR YOU, MION.

I'M SO GLAD HE'S NOT THE TYPE TO WORRY ABOUT DETAILS.

NOBODY ASKED YOU.

あはははは

AH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA

WOW, YOU KNOW YOUR STUFF, MION!

THAT'S CAULI-FLOWER. THIS IS THE BROCCOLI!

EVERY-BODY KNOWS THAT!

MUU CHIRUNO

LET'S SEE... IS BROC-COLI...

...GREEN?

OR IS IT YELLOW?

CANNED FOOD IS THE ONE THING I CAN'T STAND...

WHAT'S WRONG ?

EH !!?

BA (JUMP)

...IS CANNED FOOD.

SFX: PIII (EEEK)

I'VE BEEN TRAUMATIZED EVER SINCE MY MEAN DAD TOLD ME THERE MIGHT BE HUMAN MEAT IN CANNED FOOD...

HEH HEH HEH

WOW.

LET'S SEE... NEXT ...

ALL RIGHT, NOW WE'VE GOT OUR VEGE-TABLES. WHAT'S NEXT?

WELL, WHAT'S WRONG WITH HAVING ONE THING YOU CAN'T STAND? IT'S CUTE.

OOPS! I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS A PROBLEM WITH CANNED FOOD!

HA HA HA

I DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS ANYTHING MION COULDN'T HANDLE.

HA (GASP) OO

I'M SURPRISED.

KUSU (CHUCKLE)

AND YET... I'VE BEEN SLIPPING UP ALL OVER THE PLACE.

WHEN THE TWO OF US TRADE PLACES, IT'S THE PERFECT SWITCH. EVEN OUR FAMILY CAN'T TELL.

IT'S NOTHING!

NIKOO (GRIN)

NOPE.

DON (WHAM)

ERK! SATOSHI-KUN, BEHIND YOU!

EH?

IS IT BECAUSE I'M IN FRONT OF HIM?

WHY?

IS SOMETHING WRONG?

GARA

GARA

GARA (CLATTER)

...IS SOMEHOW VERY THRILLING.

AHHHA!

SHOPPING WITH YOU, SATOSHI-KUN...

AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU SPILLED YOUR CHANGE EVERYWHERE.

GIRI

GIRI (SHAKE)

CHARIIIN (JINGLE)

Aaah!

YOU FORGOT WHERE YOU PUT YOUR WALLET.

IRA (IRK)

IRA

HUH?

HUH?

YOU PUT EVERYTHING IN THE BASKET WITHOUT CHECKING THE PRICE OR HOW MANY PEOPLE IT WILL SERVE.

DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH MONEY!?

BEEF.

PORK

POI (TOSS)

POI

DOSA (THUD)

COME ON, GET IT ALL IN THERE.

YOU'RE EVEN MORE HARSH THAN USUAL TODAY, MION.

EH?

PUT THE BEEF PACK ON THE BOT-TOM!

AH! NO, NO, PUT IN THE TOFU LAST!

WRAP THE TOFU IN PLASTIC!

EH?

MUU (HRRM).

WELL, IT'S FUN TO BE THE ONE WATCHING, ANYWAY.

AH-HA!

HE'S A LOT DIFFERENT THAN WHEN I FIRST MET HIM.

KUSU (CHUCKLE)

HE'S UNRELI-ABLE...

...AND INEPT.

...WHEN HE SAID HE WASN'T SURE IF HE WANTED TO HELP ME OR NOT.—

...SO IT WAS PROBABLY TRUE...

HE MUST HAVE REALLY WAVERED.

BUT HE SCREWED UP HIS COURAGE AND JUMPED IN...

...SO...

...HE WASN'T CONFIDENT THAT HE COULD HELP.

HE HAS NO PHYSICAL STRENGTH...

...AND HE'S NOT CLEVER ENOUGH TO TALK HIS WAY OUT OF THAT KIND OF SITUATION...

...TO HELP ME!

NIKO

NIKO (GRIN)

HEH HEH.

WHAT'S WRONG?

I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, SATOSHI-KUN!

EH?

I'M NOT, I'M NOT!

OOOH, HOW ADOW-ABLE

MION, YOU'RE REALLY MAKING FUN OF ME, AREN'T YOU?

CAN YOU MAKE IT HOME BY YOURSELF? DO YOU KNOW THE WAY?

RRGH, SHE IS MAKING FUN OF ME.

MM!

WH-WHERE DID THAT COME FROM!?

NADE

NADE (PET)

YOU DID YOUR BEST! YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD BOY!

KAA (BLUUSH)

YOU DID THE SHOPPING SO WELL, YOU DESERVE A REWARD! PET, PET!

# HINAMIZAWA FIGHTERS RECRUITING TEAMMATES

AND SATOSHI-KUN THOUGHT, "I'M BEGGING YOU, MION. DON'T COME WATCH ME PLAY."

MUUU (HRRRM)

NIYARI (SMIRK)

SORDO (SNEEAK)

HA (GASP)

HINAMIZAWA FIGHTERS? ISN'T THAT YOUR BASE-BALL TEAM, SATOSHI-KUN?

SO THEY PRACTICE AT THE OKINOMIYA FIELD!

KAKIIIN (THWAAACK)

LET'S SEE...

SATOSHI-KUN... WHERE'S SATOSHI-KUN?

LOOK AT 'EM PLAY!

YOUR MANAGER?

NUUU (LOOOM)

HOW ABOUT IT? WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU AS OUR MANAGER.

BIK (WINCE)

YOU'RE INTERESTED IN BASE-BALL, ARE YOU?

GA (CLAMP)

FIGHT!

HAVE A TOWEL!

YES! OUR MANAG-ER!!

?

?

SHE IS TRULY A MODERN-DAY MAID!!

TO SUPPORT AND SOOTHE THE ATHLETES! HER VISAGE LINKED TO THAT OF THE MAIDS I SO LOVE!

POKEEEN' (KAPOW)

OOHH! M-A-I-D !!

BIKU (WINCE)

GUWA (LUNGE)

AND SOME-DAY, YOU CAN BE A MAID IN MY HOME!

LISTEN TO THIS! THIS PERVERT WAS JUST TRYING TO—

EH !?

PURAAAN (CHIMP)

WAAH!

SA-TOSHI-KUN!

OH, MION! YOU CAME?

HÀ (GASP)

TA (TMP)

TA (TMP)

I'M SORRY!

PATA (FWUMP)

EH!?

JIN (STING)

JIN

MAIDs..

COACH IRIE!!

HA-HA-HA!

BUT A PER-VERT? THAT'S TOO MUCH.

AH-HA

DID I FOOL HIM...?

WELL, IT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT?

COACH!? DOES MION KNOW THIS GUY?

I'M SORRY, SONO-ZAKI-SAN.

I JUST GET SO EXCITED WHEN I THINK ABOUT MAIDS.

OOH! OH, SO SATOSHI-KUN *CAN* PLAY!

.300 !?

HOJO-SAN IS THE PRIDE OF OUR TEAM WITH A BATTING AVERAGE OF .300.

KIIIN (WHACK)

I SEE YOU'RE WELL AWARE OF YOUR WEAK-NESSES, HOJO-SAN.

IN THAT CASE, THE ONLY THING FOR IT IS TO PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE.

BASEBALL ISN'T JUST ABOUT YOUR BATTING AVERAGE.

IF I CAN'T BE THE BEST HITTER AROUND, IT'S MEAN-INGLESS.

OH, IS THAT WHY YOU WERE SO DE-PRESSED?

GA (CLENCH)

ALL RIGHT!

I'LL BE WITH YOU ALL THE WAY.

I DO OWE YOU ONE, SATOSHI-KUN.

I'LL HELP WITH YOUR SPECIAL TRAINING TOO!

MION.

SONO-ZAKI-SAN...

JIIN (TOUCHED)

*I DON'T THINK THIS IS "LOVE" OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.*

KIN
(WHACK)

...WANT TO KNOW SO MUCH MORE ABOUT HIM.

I WANT HIM TO PAT MY HEAD MORE.

I WANT TO TEASE HIM MORE.

I WANT TO BE WITH HIM MORE AND MORE.

ALL RIGHT!

THE MAIN FAMILY HAS BEEN KEEPING A STERN EYE OUT FOR YOU LATELY. PLEASE BE CAREFUL.

I KNOW, I KNOW!

AND PLEASE PUT YOUR UNDER-WEAR IN THE LAUNDRY BASKET.

ZUGOOO (VRRRR)

HEH-HEH. NOTHING!

WHAT HAPPENED, SHION-SAN? SOMETHING GOOD?

FLAG: GOOD LUCK, FIGHTERS!

I'LL BRING LOTS OF REFRESHMENTS TO THE NEXT PRACTICE.

CANDIED LEMONS AND ICE-COLD BARLEY TEA...

...AND, AND...

I'M ACTING SO STUPID!

BAFU (BOFF)

WHAT AM I DOING !?

WAAAAAAH!
WAAAAAAH!
I HEAR SOMEONE CRYING.

うわおおん
WAAAAAH!

SATOKO IS CRYING AGAIN.

うわおおん
WAAAAAH!

HELP ME, NII-

I HAVE TO HELP HER.

HELP ME, NII-

NII-
NII!

I HAVE TO HELP HER.

NII-
NII!

ぺた

ぺた

ぺた

I'M SORRY
M SORR
M SORR
I'M SORRY!
M SORR

SATOSHI-KUN...!

HA (GASP)

CLASS IS OVER.

KANA (CHIRP)

KANA

KANA

UH...OH, OKAY.

THANKS FOR WAKING ME UP...

AH...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? IT LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE HAVING A NIGHT-MARE.

EH? IT DID?

GATA (CLATTER)

I'VE BEEN HAVING BAD DREAMS LATELY...

HMM ...?

...RENA...

WHAT KIND OF DREAMS?

PATA

PATA (PATTER)

AH-HA-HA-HA-HA!

AH-HA-HA-HA-HA!

PATA

PATA

...ARE THE SIGNS OF OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE.

BECAUSE THOSE...

SA-TOSHI-KUN...

...IF YOU FEEL THE "PRESENCE" GETTING CLOSER...

HITA (STEP)

ひた

ひた HITA

...AND YOU START TO HEAR FOOT-STEPS...

...AND IT STARTS TO ALWAYS LOOK DOWN AT YOU, SATOSHI-KUN...

...THEN TALK TO RENA ABOUT IT, OKAY?

カナ KANA (CHIRP)

カナカナカナ

KANA

カナカナカナカナ

KANA

KANA

KANA

カナカナカナ

# CHAPTER 3: OYASHIRO-SAMA

DON COUND

AND PUMP UP YOUR STRENGTH! ♡

EAT AS MUCH AS YOU CAN, EVERY-ONE!

WHOA ...

NOW, EVERYONE. LET'S START PRACTICE

WAAAH!

PAN (CLAP) パン

PAN パン

OH, STOP THAT!

THANKS FOR EVERY-THING!

NADE NADE (PET) なでなで♡

WOW. DID YOU MAKE ALL OF THIS, MION?

GUIRA (SWOON)

SFX: TA (TMP) TA

SATOSHI-KUN!?

BA (SHOCK)

HOJO-SAN!

BA (START)

HE'S OKAY. HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT IF HE JUST RESTS A LITTLE.

I'M A DOCTOR. DON'T YOU TRUST ME?

COACH, IS HE REALLY OKAY?

BUT SHOULDN'T HE GO HOME AND REST THERE...?

I DID ALL KINDS OF TESTS ON HIM, BUT I COULDN'T FIND THE CAUSE.

...HOJO-SAN'S HEALTH STARTED DETERIO-RATING.

WHEN HIS AUNT AND UNCLE TOOK HIM IN...

FUU (SIGH)

...IS A PSYCHO-LOGICAL ILLNESS.

EVENTU-ALLY I FIGURED IT OUT. THIS...

IN HIS FAMILY, HIS MOTHER REMARRIED SEVERAL TIMES.

SATOKO-CHAN COULDN'T WARM UP TO THEIR NEW FATHERS, AND HOJO-SAN WAS ALWAYS DEFENDING HER.

THEN TWO YEARS AGO, THEIR PARENTS PASSED AWAY.

AND WHEN THEY WERE TAKEN IN BY THEIR MOTHER'S LAST HUSBAND'S YOUNGER BROTHER AND HIS WIFE...

ZA (SWEEP) ZA

SATOKO... OUR AUNT AND UNCLE ARE COMING TO SEE US TODAY, SO...

OKAY ...?

BATAN
(SHUT)

BURORORO
(VRRROOM)

KIKI
(SCREE)

OI
(SNAG)

DAMN THAT ANIKI, LEAVING ME TO DEAL WITH ALL HIS PROBLEMS.

HN...!

HELLO.

HA
(GASP)

BESHA
(SPLAT)

I'LL NEVER LIVE WITH PEOPLE LIKE YOU!!

DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!

BAN (BAM)

EEK!

BIKU (WINCE)

!!

ZUN

ZUN (STRIDE)

YOU LITTLE BRAT!

AHH?

STILL, SATOKO-CHAN'S ATTITUDE NEVER CHANGED AFTER THAT.

HER RELATION-SHIP WITH THEIR AUNT AND UNCLE ONLY GOT WORSE...

...AND HOJO-SAN KEPT DEFENDING HER. HE MUST HAVE REACHED HIS LIMIT.

WE'RE SORRY.

HIS HEALTH IMPROVED, AND HE GOT MORE AND MORE ENTHUSIAS-TIC ABOUT BASE-BALL.

HOJO-SAN WAS COLLAPSING MENTALLY. SPORTS REALLY WERE A GOOD THING FOR HIM.

...IT WOULD EASE THE EMOTIONAL BURDEN.

I THOUGHT IF HE COULD FORGET ABOUT HIS FAMILY FOR A LITTLE WHILE...

THAT'S WHEN I ASKED HOJO-SAN TO JOIN THE BASEBALL TEAM.

BUT LATELY ...

...IT LOOKS LIKE HIS HEALTH IS FAILING AGAIN.

THE REASON ...

...I'M ABLE TO KEEP MY SPIRITS UP IS BECAUSE I GET TO SEE SATOSHI-KUN.

SATOSHI-KUN...

...WHAT CAN I DO?

WHAT CAN I DO TO RAISE YOUR SPIRITS?

Angel Mart

WAAAAH!

OHH, MAIDS!

IT'S COACH'S TREAT TODAY!

ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE! EAT ALL YOU WANT!

IF YOU DON'T EAT MORE, YOU WON'T GET STRONGER, EVERYONE!

WHAT I CAN DO FOR SATOSHI-KUN...

ESPECIALLY YOU, SATOSHI-KUN. YOU'RE A GROWING YOUNG MAN!

...IS GIVE HIM A LITTLE CHANGE OF PACE.

UM... HOJO-SAN SAID HE WAS GOING HOME...

SATOSHI-KUN...?

SORRY, MION. I WANT TO RELAX AT HOME TODAY.

SATOSHI-KUN!

WAS IT OKAY FOR ME TO TAKE THIS CUSTARD HOME?

EH...? THAT'S FINE...

GOOD. SATOKO WILL LIKE THIS.

SORRY... I'M A LITTLE DIZZY.

SA-TOSHI-KUN!

HA (GASP)

FURA (SWOON)

YOU'RE LYING.

YOU DON'T WANT TO RELAX AT HOME!

THE TRUTH IS YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT SATOKO, AREN'T YOU?

YOU'RE WORRIED THAT YOUR AUNT IS BULLYING HER WHILE YOU'RE GONE.

PROBABLY BECAUSE HE CAN'T PROTECT SATOKO WHILE HE'S PLAYING.

HOJO-SAN HAS BEEN SAYING HE WANTS TO QUIT BASEBALL.

BUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU, SATOSHI-KUN!?

I KNOW THAT YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT SATOKO, BUT SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO FORGET ABOUT THE BAD THINGS AT HOME AND TAKE A BREAK FROM THEM!

SU (SSK)

IF YOU DON'T, YOU'LL—

HE'S REALLY NOT COMING.

WAAAH!

THAT WAS THE LAST DAY SATO-SHI-KUN CAME TO BASE-BALL PRAC-TICE.

MII-CHAN.

ARE YOU GOING HOME NOW ...?

SEE YOU AT SCHOOL TOMORROW.

I HEARD ABOUT HER FROM ONEE.

THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON WHO CALLS MION MII-CHAN.

RENA RYUGU. A TRANSFER STUDENT WHO MOVED HERE JUST LAST SPRING.

ZAAAAA (SHHHHH)

TTTTTTTT

TTO~!/ PO

PO (DRIP)

TTO~!/

ZAAAAAA

ZAAAAAA

DOES THAT MEAN...HE'S DISTANCING HIMSELF FROM EVERYONE AT SCHOOL TOO?

.....

ARE YOU LONELY BECAUSE SATOSHI-KUN WON'T TALK TO YOU?

TATAN (PATTER)

TAN

TAN

SATOSHI-KUN...

...HAVE THINGS GOTTEN THAT BAD SINCE I LAST SAW YOU?

ALL WE CAN DO IS WATCH OVER HIM... IT'S HARD, ISN'T IT...?

IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S UNDER A LOT OF PRESSURE BECAUSE OF EVERYTHING THAT'S GOING ON WITH SATOKO-CHAN.

MII-CHAN, DO YOU...

...LOVE SATOSHI-KUN...?

HOW DID I FALL SO IN LOVE WITH HIM?

HE MELTED MY HARDENED HEART AS IF BY MAGIC.

I DO LOVE HIM.

NO MATTER HOW RESTRICTED I WAS, EVEN IF I COULD ONLY SPEND TIME WITH HIM AS MION'S SHADOW...

...IF SATOSHI-KUN JUST PATTED MY HEAD FROM TIME TO TIME, THEN I...

THEN SMILE.

I THINK THAT YOUR SMILE CAN CHEER UP SATOSHI-KUN, MII-CHAN.

AND I'M SURE HE'LL COME BACK TO BASEBALL PRACTICE WHEN HE'S DONE WITH HIS JOB. ...OKAY?

JOB...?

HIS JOB... HUH...? I WONDER WHEN HE'LL BE DONE.

PROBABLY WHEN HE'S EARNED ENOUGH MONEY.

BUT HOWEVER LONG IT TAKES, HE'LL BE DONE IN TIME FOR SATOKO-CHAN'S BIRTHDAY.

*SATOKO'S BIRTHDAY...?*

*SATOSHI-KUN'S...BEEN WORKING SO HE CAN GET AN EXPENSIVE PRESENT FOR SATOKO?*

TO ENCOURAGE HIS BATTERED SISTER...

...EVEN THOUGH HE'S BEEN WORN RAGGED HIMSELF...!

SATOKO AGAIN...

IF HE WOULD JUST FORGET ABOUT SATOKO, THINGS WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER FOR HIM!

HE'S ON THE BRINK OF EXHAUSTION BECAUSE OF SATOKO.

AND HE'S SPURRING ON HIS BATTERED BODY TO WORK FOR SATOKO.

SATOKO... IS TOO SPOILED...

IF SATOKO WOULD'VE JUST TRIED TO GET ALONG WITH HER AUNT, THEN SHE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABUSED TO BEGIN WITH!

BUT SHE GOES AND STIRS UP TROUBLE WITH HER AUNT, THEN HIDES BEHIND SATOSHI-KUN WHEN SHE GETS BULLIED...!

SHE DOESN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT HOW BADLY SATOSHI-KUN IS GETTING HURT IN HER PLACE!

BIK W WINCE.

I WON'T LOOK DOWN ON YOU FOR FEELING THAT WAY, MII-CHAN.

I'M MION RIGHT NOW. MION IS SATOKO'S FRIEND.

DARN IT...!

SO THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT SATOKO-CHAN...

BECAUSE YOU REALLY LOVE SATOSHI-KUN... RIGHT?

BE-SIDES ...

SATOSHI-KUN OPENED UP TO ME...

EH?

...SATOSHI-KUN THINKS THE SAME THING.

HE SAID IT'S AGONY HAVING HER RELY ON HIM AS HER BIG BROTHER...

...BUT HE KNOWS IT'S A TERRIBLE SIN TO THINK THAT WAY.

THE SATOSHI-KUN I KNOW WOULD NEVER TALK LIKE THAT.

...GOT HIS TRUE FEELINGS OUT OF HIM.

THIS GIRL... THIS RENA GIRL...

YOU'VE HAD TO PROTECT YOUR SIBLINGS TOO, RENA?

IT'S BECAUSE I'VE EXPERI-ENCED IT TOO.

IT'S NOT THAT.

I'M JEAL-OUS.

SO HE TRUSTS YOU ENOUGH TO GO TO YOU FOR ADVICE, RENA...

NO.

ZAAAA (SHHHHH)

ア ア ア。。

I'VE HEARD THE "STEP, STEP"...

...ALWAYS BEING FOLLOWED BY FOOT-STEPS.

GORO/ (RUMBLE)

RENA... WHAT...

...ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

KA-/ (FLASH)

...HAVING A PRESENCE STANDING AT MY PILLOW...

...LOOKING DOWN AT ME.

MII-CHAN, HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT...

...THAT YOU WANTED TO LEAVE HINAMI-ZAWA?

I DON'T THINK YOU'VE EXPERI-ENCED IT, MII-CHAN.

AH HA HA...

...I'D BETTER NOT LIE TO HER.

MY INSTINCTS ARE TELLING ME

N-NO. I LIKE MY HOME-TOWN.

DOKU

OYASHIRO-SAMA WON'T BE ANGRY WITH YOU.

THEN YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

OYASHIRO-SAMA.

HINAMIZAWA'S GUARDIAN DEITY.

AND ANY VILLAGERS WHO FORSAKE HINAMIZAWA AND TRY TO LEAVE WILL LIKEWISE NOT BE FORGIVEN.

OYASHIRO-SAMA WILL NOT FORGIVE ANY OUTSIDE ENEMIES WHO TRAMPLE SACRED HINAMIZAWA.

...A SMALL FEAR ROSE INSIDE MY HEART

AND WHEN IT WAS DECIDED THAT I WAS TO GO TO ST. LUCIA ACADEMY...

THE DISMEMBERED BODY. THE HOJO COUPLE FALLING TO THEIR DEATH— THE CURSE WENT ON FOR TWO YEARS.

I THOUGHT THAT IF I WAS LOCKED UP IN A SCHOOL FAR AWAY FROM HINAMIZAWA, I MIGHT MEET WITH OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE.

RIGHT BEFORE I STARTED GRADE SCHOOL, I MOVED TO IBARAKI.

YOU KNOW, I'M FROM HINAMIZAWA ORIGINALLY.

I COULDN'T GET USED TO MY NEW ENVIRON-MENT.

...BUT I BROKE OUT OF SCHOOL TO COME BACK.

STRICTLY SPEAKING, I'M IN THE NEIGH-BORING TOWN OF OKINO-MIYA...

BUT I'M OKAY.

THE OYASHIRO-SAMA IN MY HEART KEPT CALLING OUT TO ME...

...SAYING, "GO BACK TO HINA-MIZAWA..."

..."GO BACK TO HINA-MIZAWA."

I WAS TRAPPED BETWEEN REALITY AND THE VOICE OF OYASHIRO-SAMA...

BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH A CHILD CRIES AND BEGS TO GO BACK TO HER HOMETOWN, IT NEVER DOES ANY GOOD.

THEN.

...A LOT HAPPENED, AND I WAS ABLE TO RETURN TO HINAMIZAWA.

IN THE END—

I HAVEN'T SENSED OYASHIRO-SAMA'S PRESENCE SINCE.

AND THEN I WAS FORGIVEN.

BUT SATOSHI-KUN IS UNDER OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE WHILE STILL LIVING IN HINAMIZAWA.

THAT'S BECAUSE SATOSHI-KUN

...WANTS TO RUN AWAY SOMEWHERE AND ABANDON HINAMIZAWA.

EH!?

SATOSHI-KUN IS GOING TO LEAVE HINAMIZAWA...?

SATOSHI-KUN WANTS TO RUN AWAY FROM HINAMIZAWA!?

YOU MEAN SATOSHI-KUN IS GOING TO RUN AWAY FROM HOME?

# CHAPTER 4: "I WON'T FORGIVE YOU..."

WAAAAH!

WAAAAH!

SATO-KO!!

DA (DASH)

PICHA

PICHA (SPLISH)

ZAAAA (SHHHHH)

ア ア ア

GARA (RATTLE)

SATO-KOOO!!

SHUT UP!

OBA-SAN! STOP, PLEASE!

I WON'T FORGIVE YOU IF YOU TRY AND STOP ME!

I'M TEACHING HER SOME MANNERS!

SATO —!

SATO-KO!

うわ WAAAAH! おぁ

SATOSHI-KUN... IS WORKING FRANTICALLY TO BUY SATOKO-CHAN A BIRTHDAY PRESENT.

THE STUFFED ANIMAL SATOKO-CHAN WANTS COSTS A HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN.

NII-NII!

うわあ WAAAAH!

NII-NII!

BUT BEFORE HE REALIZED IT, SATOSHI-KUN...

うわぁ WAAAAH!

NII-NII!

...STARTED THINKING HE WANTED TO USE THAT MONEY TO GO FAR AWAY.

NII-NII! ギリ GYL (GRIT)

ぴちゃ PICHAN (SPLISH)

THAT'S WHY OYASHIRO-SAMA DIDN'T FORGIVE HIS FEELINGS.

BA (JUMP)

BACHA (SPLASH)

P.CHAN

BASHA (SPLASH)

PICHA (SPLISH)

PICHA

PICHA

PICHA

PICHA

PICHA

PICHA

AAAHH!

AAAHHH!!

ばしゃ

ぴちゃ

ばしゃ

ぴちゃ

ばしゃ

ぴちゃ

PICHA

HUFF

DON (WHAM)

HUFF

ZUZU (SLIDE)

HUFF

SAAAAA (SHHHH)

ZZZZZZZZ
'HHHHHS'

I WON'T FORGIVE YOU...

I WON'T FORGIVE YOU...

I WON'T FOR-GIVE YOU...

...IS AN OMEN OF OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE.

EVERYTHING SATOSHI-KUN IS EXPERIENCING RIGHT NOW...

I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND HALF OF WHAT THAT RENA GIRL SAID.

THE ONE THING I DID UNDER-STAND...

HUFF

HUFF

EVENTUALLY, HE'LL START TO HEAR FOOT-STEPS ALMOST MATCHING HIS, AND ONE EXTRA.

AT NIGHT, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SOMEONE AT HIS PILLOW, LOOKING DOWN AT HIM...

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE FOLLOWING HIM...

BACHA (SPLASH)

...SOME-ONE RIGHT BEHIND HIM, WATCHING.

EH!?

Please, Onee!! Trade places with me for a day!!

WH-WHAT'S WRONG, SHION!?

...WAS THAT SATOSHI-KUN MIGHT GO AWAY!!

Hello, Onee!!?

I'm! I'm going to Hinam-izawa!!

KARAAAN

KARAAAN (RIIING)

!!

GATA (CLATTER)

SA-TOSHI-KUN!

ZOKU (CHILL)

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

SATO—

ER... LUM...

HOW ARE YOU DOING ...?

.....

...I'M FINE...

ANY-THING ELSE?

ER...

IF NOT, I'M LEAVING. I WANT TO BE ALONE.

OH, I GET IT. YOU'RE TIRED...

IT MUST BE TOUGH... HAVING A JOB.

UM... WHERE DO YOU WORK?

SATOSHI-KU—

DOES IT MATTER? IS THAT ALL YOU WANT?

THEN WOULD YOU STOP BUGGING ME ABOUT EVERY-THING?

IT'S ANNOYING.

PORO (DRIP)

WHY...?

PORO

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO HATE ME SO MUCH?

YOU SHOULD TRY ASKING YOUR OWN CONSCIENCE!!

MY CONSCIENCE!?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND!!

WHY...?

SATOSHI-KUN, WHY...?

BEFORE, YOU WERE SO...

NGH...

I DON'T UNDER-STAND, SATOSHI-KUN!!

I DON'T UNDER-STAND...

...ALREADY GONE...?

IS THE SATOSHI-KUN WHO PATTED MY HEAD...

WAAAAH!
うわぁぁん...

WAAAAH!
うわぁぁん.

WAAAAH!
うぉぉぉん..

I'M SORRY!

WAAAAH!
うぉぉん.

WAAAAH!
うぉぉぉ

I'M SORRY!

WAAAAH!
うわぁぁ

HELP ME, NII-NII!!

I'M SORRY!

WAAAAH!
うわぁぁ

HELP ME!!

WAAAAH!
うわぁぁ

NII-NII!

WAAAAH!
うわぁぁん

NII-NII!

JR GR

ドン!!

BAN
(SLAP)

IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE LIKE THAT.

IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE LIKE THAT...THAT SATOSHI-KUN...

HELP ME, NII-NII!

GU!! (YANK)

EEK!

DAN (SMACK)

WAAAAH!

WHY ARE YOU CRYING!?

BE-CAUSE IF YOU CRY SOMEONE WILL COME SAVE YOU!?

BASA

BASA (FWAP)

BA (FWIP)

BAH

BUT CRYING WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING!

IF YOU WANT TO CRY, CRY!

BASA

DO YOU UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU DID WRONG!?

BASA (FWAP)

YOU DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT HOW MUCH YOU'RE HURTING THE PEOPLE WHO ARE HELPING YOU, DO YOU!?

I WISH YOU WEREN'T HERE!!

BASA

GUWA (GRAB)

YOU SHOULD JUST DROP DEAD!!

BA (JUMP)

SO SHE CAN GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING JUST BECAUSE PEOPLE SHOULD FEEL SORRY FOR HER!?

YOU SHOULD FEEL SORRY FOR SATOKO, SIR. DON'T BE MEAN TO HER.

DON'T BE MEAN TO SATOKO, SIR.

!?

GOOD (RUMBLE)

IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET IN MY WAY, I'LL BREAK YOUR HEAD OPEN TOO!!

NII- NII!

NII- NII!

SHE'S ALWAYS TAKING ADVAN-TAGE OF SATOSHI-KUN!

THAT'S WHY HE HAS TO ENDURE SO MUCH PAIN!!

SATO...

SATOKO !!

!!

DON (SHOVE)

WAAAAAH!

BUT MION-SAN ...

NII-NII... I WASN'T DOING ANYTHING WRONG...

MION-SAN...

NII-NII!!

SA-TOKO !!

BA (JUMP)

WHAT'S GOING ON, MION !!?

WHAT DID SATOKO DO!?

WHAT DID WE DO!?

...EARLIER, YOU SAID I SHOULD TRY ASKING MY CONSCIENCE, SATOSHI-KUN.

THEN YOU SHOULD TRY ASKING SATOKO'S CON-SCIENCE.

WHY DO WE ALWAYS HAVE TO BE BULLIED!!?

GA (GRAB)

ナイショ!!

YOU KNOW THE REASON, DON'T YOU, SATOSHI-KUN!?

IF SATOKO WOULD PULL HERSELF TOGETHER, SHE WOULDN'T BE SUCH A BURDEN TO YOU!

SHE'S CAUSING ALL OF THIS!

YOU...

YOU'RE SUFFERING BECAUSE SATOKO KEEPS CLINGING TO YOU, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

SHE'LL NEVER STOP CLINGING TO YOU BECAUSE YOU KEEP LETTING HER!

GEHO CCOUGHD

YOU'RE SPOILING HER TOO MUCH, SATOSHI-KUN!

DON'T TALK NON-SENSE!

GAN CWHAM!

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT US!?

THE WHOLE TOWN GOT TOGETHER TO HARASS OUR MOM AND DAD AND BACK THEM UP AGAINST A WALL!!

SO NOW YOU'RE PICKING ON US!?

THAT'S HOW THE SONOZAKI FAMILY WORKS, ISN'T IT!?

YOU'LL GO TO ANY LENGTH TO BULLY ALL THE VILLAGE TRAITORS!

SATOSHI-KUN, THAT'S ENOUGH. STOP!

IS IT THAT MUCH FUN? BULLYING THE WEAK!!?

STOP IT!!

MII-CHAN WASN'T TRYING TO BE MEAN.

...YOU KNOW THAT ACTING LIKE THIS WON'T SOLVE ANY-THING, RIGHT?

AND MII-CHAN...

SHE'S JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU, AND SHE DIDN'T HAVE A WAY TO EXPRESS HER FEELINGS.

DROPPING YOUR LUNCH BOX IS NOTHING TO CRY ABOUT. ...OKAY?

HIKKU

HIKKU (HIC)

YOU TOO, SATOKO-CHAN...

WHAT...?

WHAT IS THIS...?

I'M SORRY... I DIDN'T MEAN TO...

ME TOO... I'M SORRY...

ALL RIGHT. NOW MAKE UP...

I'M SORRY... ONEE...

HIC...

HIC...

HIC...

WHAT AM I...

...DOING...?

ONEE ...

HIKKU (HIC)

...YEAH, I THINK HE DOES...

...SATOSHI-KUN... HATES THE SONOZAKIS, DOESN'T HE?

IT WAS THE SONOZAKIS WHO INSTIGATED THE VILLAGE TO PERSECUTE THE HOJOS, TO SET AN EXAMPLE AND ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO BE UNIFIED.

IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE IF HE BLAMES THE SONOZAKIS FOR DRIVING THEM INTO THEIR CURRENT SITUATION...

SIGN: GET OUT, TRAITORS!

THEN WHY!?

WHY NOW!?

WHY IS HE ACTING LIKE THIS NOW!?

THE ONLY THING... I CAN THINK OF...

...IS THAT SATOSHI IS SO MATURE ...

SO UP TILL NOW, HE TREATED ME LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, EVEN THOUGH I'M A SONOZAKI, BECAUSE HE'S MATURE?

BUT NOW... HE'S SO WORN OUT MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY THAT THE HATRED HE HOLDS AT THE BOTTOM OF HIS HEART IS GUSHING OUT!?

BUT THAT'S ...

WAAAAH!

IN-THAT CASE, HE SHOULD HAVE...!

HE SHOULD HAVE GLARED AT ME WITH REJECTION IN HIS EYES FROM THE TIME WE FIRST MET!

THEN I...

I...

...I WOULDN'T HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH HIM.

HIC
HIC
HIC

# CHAPTER 5

DURING THE DAM WAR... THE MAIN SONOZAKI FAMILY DID EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO HARASS THE HOJO FAMILY FOR SUPPORTING THE DAM.

IT'S ONLY NATURAL ...

...THAT SATOSHI-KUN HATES THE SONOZAKIS FOR IT.

...WHY DID ONI-BABA SAY WE SHOULD HARASS SATOSHI-KUN'S WHOLE FAMILY?

HEY ONEE...

EH ...?

It was Satoshi-kun's parents who supported the dam.

It's not like Satoshi-kun agreed with them, right?

AH...

Er... um...

...HOW WHAT SHE SAYS WILL AFFECT THINGS!!

BUT ONI-BABA SHOULD KNOW PERFECTLY WELL...

IT'S JUST THAT ONI-BABA THOUGHT THAT SHE DIDN'T LIKE THEM.

EVEN I HAVE A VAGUE UNDER-STANDING THAT IT'S NOT AS IF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY GAVE EXPLICIT ORDERS TO TARGET THE HOJOS.

HER CONCERNS WERE UNDERSTOOD TO BE HER DESIRES, AND IT WAS ALL CARRIED OUT AS A RESULT, THAT'S ALL.

BEFORE YOU SAID THAT FURUDE-SAN THE PRIEST WASN'T BEING MATURE BECAUSE HE DISTURBED THE PEACE, RIGHT?

SO IS THIS THE SAME THING?

THEN ISN'T IT ENOUGH TO PUNISH THE PARENTS!?

WHAT DID SATOSHI-KUN DO!?

—!

The Hojos were imma-ture because they objected when the whole village needed to be united!

So they needed to be punished!

SATOSHI-KUN HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!

# CHAPTER 5: THE COTTON DRIFTING

RIRIRIN

RRRRRRR

HELLO ...?

ONEE ...!?

もて..

MOZO (SQUIRM)

R R R

I got a phone call from Satoshi.

Where are you? You're not at the main house?

NO. I'M CALLING YOU FROM A PAY PHONE. SO I'LL MAKE IT SHORT.

...IT SEEMED LIKE HE WANTED TO APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT HAPPENED IN CLASS THE OTHER DAY.

So I thought... it would be better for you to take the call.

...to call YOU, not me.

I think he meant ...

SATOSHI IS REALLY AT THE END OF HIS ROPE THESE DAYS.

I TOLD SATOSHI THAT I WAS BUSY AT THE MOMENT AND I'D CALL HIM RIGHT BACK. THEN I HUNG UP.

SO, SHION, CALL THE NUMBER I'M ABOUT TO GIVE YOU.

Do that for him.

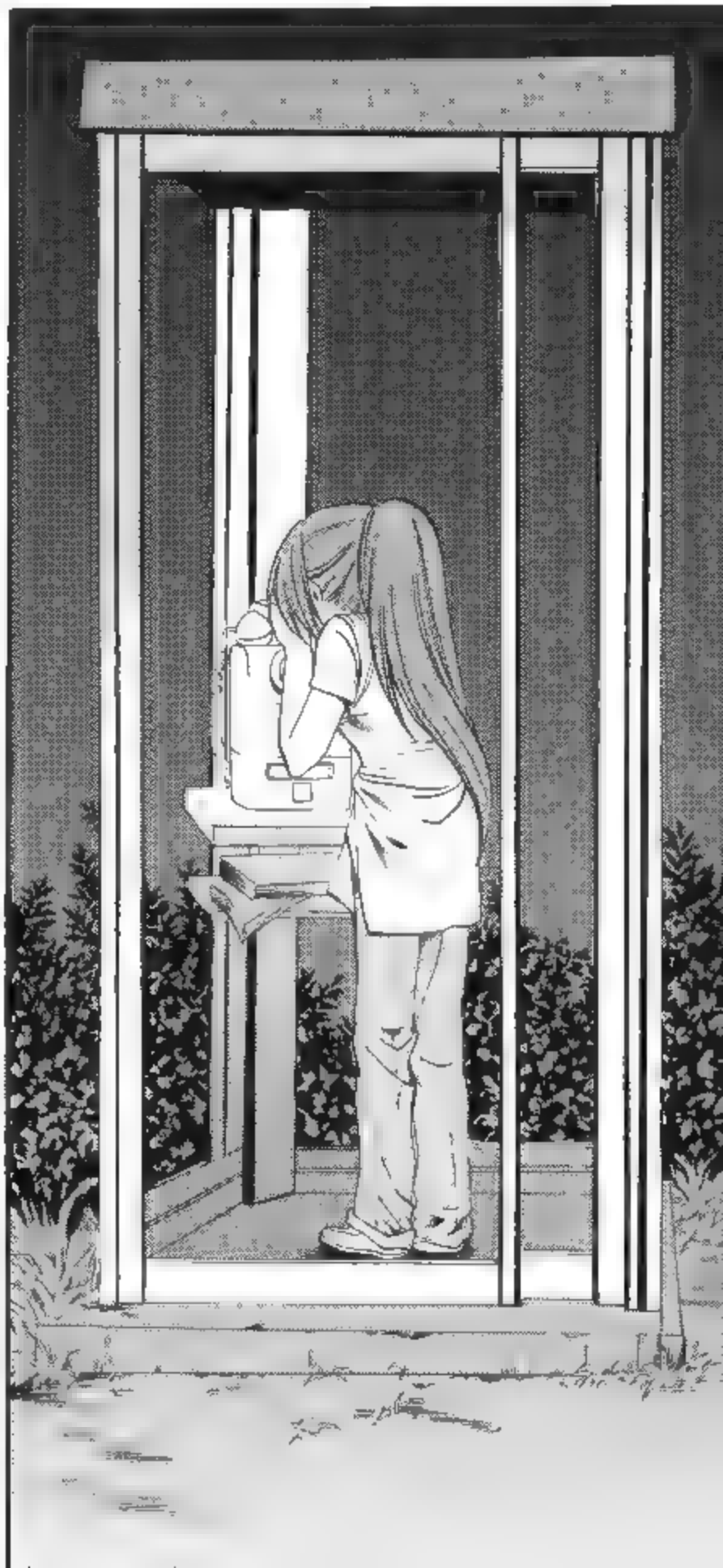
THANK YOU. I'LL CALL HIM RIGHT AWAY.

BUT YOUR VOICE...

BACHA (CLICK)

MY VOICE WON'T REACH HIM ANY-MORE.

...MIGHT GET THROUGH TO HIM.



TURURURU (BRRRRING)

TURURURU

Do you have time now?

Oh... Sorry about earlier.

DOKU THUMP

UH... UM...

SA-TOSHI-KUN...?

...ABOUT THE OTHER DAY...

IT'S THE OLD SATOSHI-KUN.

OH, GOOD... IT'S SATOSHI-KUN...

...I'M SORRY.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE, MION...

SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH ME.

I'M SORRY!

AH! N-NO, I SHOULD BE THE ONE...

...I'LL... NEVER FORGIVE THE PEOPLE ...

...WHO PUT US THROUGH ALL THIS ...!

...BUT ...

...THEY DEFINITELY WEREN'T *YOU.*

THEY MIGHT BE VERY CLOSE TO YOU, MION...

SO...I THOUGHT I SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO YOU, AT LEAST.

NO... I'M SORRY.

I DIDN'T TRY TO UNDERSTAND YOU, SATOSHI-KUN.

...I WAS SO INSEN-SITIVE...

I QUIT MY JOB ALREADY. I EARNED ALL THE MONEY I NEEDED.

Oh... Then you don't have to push yourself anymore. That's good.

ANY-WAY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?

YOU HAVE SO MUCH TO WORRY ABOUT ALREADY, AND NOW YOU'RE WORKING TO GET A PRESENT FOR SATOKO.

SATOKO...

...HAS IT WORSE THAN I DO...

IS SHE OKAY...?

...THINGS ARE REALLY HARD ON SATOKO NOW, AREN'T THEY?

DOES SHE LOOK LIKE SHE'S OKAY...?

SATOKO ...

...IS ABOUT TO SNAP... SO...

I...I... I'M SORRY!

I'M SO SORRY!

I DON'T MIND, BUT WHY...?

You know, tomorrow's the Cotton Drifting Festival, right?

I want you to take Satoko to the festival.

...SO I WANT...

...TO LET HER HAVE FUN FOR AT LEAST ONE NIGHT.

SATOKO IS SUFFERING A LOT.

IF SHE COULD SPREAD HER WINGS SOMEPLACE WHERE OUR AUNT'S NOT AROUND...

Yeah, but... why...?

WHY WHAT...?

...I...I have something to do. I... have something to do tomorrow that's kind of related to work...

I just can't make it to the festival.

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE HER TO THE FESTIVAL YOURSELF, SATOSHI-KUN?

SO... MION...

...WILL YOU TAKE CARE OF SATOKO FOR ME?

YEAH... OKAY...

GOOD.

DON'T SAY STUFF LIKE THAT...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? NO WAY! JUST TOMORROW.

AH-HA-HA-HA. IF IT WERE POSSIBLE, I WISH YOU'D TAKE CARE OF HER NOT JUST TOMORROW, BUT FOREVER.

BUT ONLY TOMORROW NIGHT... OKAY?

*...HE'S GOING TO GO AWAY...*

*THE WAY SATOSHI-KUN TALKS, IT'S LIKE...*

*WHY WON'T HE TAKE HER TO THE FESTIVAL HIMSELF...?*

*WHY WOULD SATOSHI ASK ME TO TAKE CARE OF SATOKO?*

HEY... MION...

...I really don't want to tell you this because you'll think I'm sick or something, but...

EH?

YOU... HA-HA-HA...YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN IT, DO YOU?

Eh...? Believe in what ...?

Mm... you know...

...Oyashiro-sama's Curse.

AH... HA-HA. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

You know. They say Oyashiro-sama will curse you if you try to run away and forsake the village.

WHAT? DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE TRYING TO RUN AWAY AND FOR-SAKE THE VILLAGE?

I'M... NOT ANY-MORE.

NOT ANY-MORE ...

THEN THERE'S NO PROBLEM, RIGHT?

BUT ...

...I'M NOT FORGIVEN YET.

Mion... I'm going to ask you one more time...

Do you think Oyashiro-sama's Curse really exists?

SA-TOSHI... KUN ...?

JUST WHAT IS SATOSHI-KUN HOPING I'LL SAY?

NEVER MIND WHETHER I BELIEVE IT OR NOT.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO PUT HIS MIND AT EASE?

HA HA.

.....

OF COURSE THERE'S NO CURSE.

AH... HA HA.

AH! I'M SORRY ...

...Sorry for asking weird questions ...

YOU WON'T DISAP-PEAR...

WHETHER IT'S A CURSE OR A PLOT BY SOMEONE IN THE VILLAGE...

HUFF

I WON'T LET THEM ERASE ME...!

...I WILL NOT DIS-APPEAR.

HUFF

YOU WON'T DISAP-PEAR, SATOSHI-KUN...

Please take care of Satoko...

...AND PUT SATOSHI-KUN'S MIND AT EASE.

I SHOULD HAVE AGREED...

BUT AT THE TIME...

...I STILL COULDN'T FORGIVE SATOKO...

AH!

...Sorry for asking weird favors...

TSUUU

TSUUU

TSUUUU

Suu
(zzz)
すぅ
Suu
すぅ

NOT UNTIL I BUY YOU THAT STUFFED ANIMAL.

I WON'T DISAP-PEAR.

UNTIL THAT DAY...

I'LL GET MY WAGES SOON.

...I WILL NOT DISAPPEAR ...!

I KNOW I'M COMING TO THE REALIZATION PRETTY LATE IN THE GAME, BUT I CAN'T HELP THINKING...

...THAT EVERY-THING ABOUT OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE REFLECTS THE WILL OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY.

...OR A PLOT BY SOMEONE IN THE VILLAGE ...

WHETHER IT'S A CURSE...

...TONIGHT IS THE COTTON DRIFTING...

YES...

...ON THE DAY OF THE COTTON DRIFTING.

SOMEONE WILL ANTICIPATE ONI-BABA'S CONCERNS...

...WILL OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE STRIKE AGAIN?

...TODAY...

THIS YEAR...

...WHO WILL THE CURSE STRIKE THIS YEAR...?

IF IT IS GOING TO HAPPEN...

納豆

BOXES: NATTO / BONTAN

KYUUUN (TWAAANG)

IT'S SO ADOW-ABLE! ♡

OHH!

I WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY, LITTLE MISS SONO-ZAKI!

ALLLL RIGHT! GO FOR IT, RENA!

OHH! I'M TAKING THEM HOME WITH ME!

OJI-SAN! UNDER-ESTIMATE RENA, AND YOU'RE GONNA GET HURT!

HA HA! GO AHEAD AND TRY!

RENA'S TAKING THEM ALL HOME WITH HER! ♡

MEW☆

RIKA...

BAI (JUMP)

はいっ

YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING TODAY, SATOKO.

LET'S PLAY LOTS AND LOTS, SIR!

SA-TOKO ?

FUI (HUFF)

TO TO TO (TROT)

とととと

I... I KNOW THAT!

YOUR MEAN AUNT ISN'T COMING TO THE FESTIVAL TODAY, SIR.

THEN SMILE LOTS AND HAVE LOTS OF FUN!

NIPAAA (BEEAM)

にはぴーー☆

PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE.

UNFORTU-NATELY, I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT.

THEN, SATOKO...

...IF ALL YOUR PAIN WENT AWAY TODAY, SATOKO ...

...WOULD YOU SMILE THEN, SIR?

SATOKO

I-I'M NOT GONNA LISTEN TO YOUR USELESS ATTEMPTS AT MAKING ME FEEL BETTER!

IT HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED.

ZAWA

ZAWA (MURMURS)

ザワ ザワ —!!

—!!

本部

SIGN: HEADQUARTERS

ORYOU-SAN!

HMPH.

IF IT HAPPENS THREE TIMES, IT'LL HAPPEN A FOURTH, THEY SAY.

BUT... OOISHI-SAN... THIS IS TOO CRUEL.
KUMA-CHAN, IF A PERSON DOESN'T DIE THE WAY HE OR SHE PLANNED TO, IT'S ALWAYS CRUEL.

TEN TO ONE THEY REALLY HATED HER.

LOOKING AT THE BLOOD AND THE BOTTOM OF HER SANDALS, THERE'S NO DOUBT THIS IS WHERE SHE DIED.

WHAT ABOUT YOU? ANY-THING TO IDENTIFY HER?

SHE'S WEARING SANDALS AND CASUAL CLOTHES. SHE PROB-ABLY LIVES NEARBY.

IF WE ASK AROUND, IT SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG TO FIND OUT WHO SHE IS.

YES, SIR!

THE CHIEF'S WARNED US THAT THIS CASE IS TO BE KEPT UNDER WRAPS, SO KEEP THAT IN MIND.

STILL...

...I KNOW THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE AROUND, BUT IT'S RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD.

TO BEAT HER HERE SO BADLY THAT HER SKULL CAVES IN... THAT'S A LITTLE PSYCHOTIC.

...THE CURTAIN FELL ON ONE TRAGEDY.

ON THIS DAY...

...AND SIMULTA-NEOUSLY...

...THE CURTAIN ROSE...

...ON A LONG...

...LONG, CRUEL DRAMA.

HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY EYE OPENING ARC ❶ END

# ABOUT THE "EYE OPENING ARC," THAT WHICH EXPOSES "THE UNDERSIDE"

ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR: RYUKISHI07

BASED ON THE CONTENTS OF THE "EYE OPENING ARC," YOU COULD EASILY CALL IT THE "SHION ARC."

SHION SONOZAKI IS MION'S YOUNGER TWIN. AT THE SAME TIME, SHE IS THE OTHER SIDE OF MION— OR RATHER, SHE IS A CHARACTER POSITIONED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY. SHE IS THE ONLY ONE OF ALL THE HEROINES WHO DOESN'T LIVE IN HINAMIZAWA; SHE'S NOT EVEN ALLOWED TO LIVE IN HINAMIZAWA. WHILE SHE IS THE SPITTING IMAGE OF MION, HER EXISTENCE IS THE EXACT OPPOSITE. SO I THINK YOU'LL UNDERSTAND THAT WRITING SHION'S STORY IS BASICALLY THE SAME AS DEPICTING THE UNDERSIDE OF THE WORLD OF "HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY."

THE "EYE OPENING ARC" STARTS IN 1982, ONE YEAR BEFORE THE MAIN STORY'S SETTING IN 1983. WHAT UNDERSIDE WILL THIS ARC EXPOSE? ...I SINCERELY HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY IT.

WHEN EVERYTHING IN THE "EYE OPENING ARC" IS REVEALED...MAYBE IT WILL SPECTACULARLY BETRAY SOME OF YOUR SPECULATION OR YOUR DEDUCTIVE REASONINGS OR YOUR EXPECTATIONS. BUT PLEASE, DON'T BE AFRAID OF THAT. BECAUSE THOSE OF YOU WHO EXPERIENCE THAT FEELING ARE THE ONES WHO WILL HAVE ENJOYED THE "EYE OPENING ARC" MOST OF ALL.

BONUS MANGA

HOT-BLOODED SCHOOL DOCTOR AND BASEBALL TEAM COACH:

# KYOSUKE IRIE!!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, HOJO-SAN? IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?

ACTUALLY, IT'S ABOUT SATOKO.

SATOKO-CHAN?

IF THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, THEN I, IRIE, CAN BE OF SERVICE.

HEH.

BUT IT'S REALLY EXPENSIVE. I CAN'T AFFORD IT.

SA-TOKO... WANTS A GIANT TEDDY BEAR.

AH HA HA HA!

HOO HA!

NOW! TAKE THIS GIANT TEDDY BEAR HOME WITH YOU!!

THEN HUG ME!! ON NIGHTS WHEN SHE CAN'T SLEEP, I'LL SING HER A LULLABY!!

*—FIND THE MISTAKES—*
THERE ARE FIVE THINGS IN THIS MANGA THAT ARE CLEARLY DIFFERENT FROM THE MAIN STORY.

*FOR THE ANSWERS, GO TO THE PAGE AFTER THE NEXT!*

Thank you very much, everyone who read this!! How did you like Volume One of the "Eye Opening Arc"? The next volume will be even more muddled and gruesome. I'm afraid to start drawing it!! Well then, see you in Volume Two.
Yutori Houjyou
http://yutori-main.jp/
(Japanese only)

## Find the Mistakes Answers

- Satoshi's dominant hand is reversed.
- Irie's lower eyelashes.
- Satoko's clothes.
- There's snow falling only around Satoko.
- The teddy bear has a masculine aura.

NEXT VOLUME, THE LAMENT RESOUNDS.

NO! NO!!

TO PROTECT THE PERSON DEAREST TO ME...

TO SETTLE THIS?

FORGIVE HIM! EVERYONE!

HOW DO YOU PLAN

I'M REALLY SCARED...

BECAUSE I'M THE SISTER OF THE NEXT HEAD OF THE FAMILY...

I CAN DO THIS...

I CAN DO THIS!!

Higurashi WHEN THEY CRY
EYE OPENING ARC

# HIGURASHI
# WHEN THEY CRY
## EYE OPENING ARC ①

RYUKISHI07
Yutori Houjyou

Translation: Alethea Nibley and Athena Nibley

Lettering: AndWorld Design

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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